

Rs. 250 lakhs have been sanctioned in the North Eastern Region during the Xth Plan.

**FDI in food processing sector**

1952. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a section of agro-based food processing companies have been given approval for 100 per cent FDI but the industry in general has expressed its reservations;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision to enact a legislation in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the main reasons for delay and by what time, a final decision for introducing the legislation would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy on FDI according to which FDI upto 100% is permitted, under the automatic route in most sectors including food processing sector except food retail and items reserved for small scale industrial sector. The FDI scheme is incorporated in the FEMA Regulations. The proposals requiring prior government approval are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board in a time bound manner. The policy is reviewed on a continuous basis for further liberalization/rationalization. Besides putting in place an attractive and investment-friendly policy with a high degree of automaticity, the government has also renewed thrust on the investment promotion front through informative publications on investment opportunities and organizing various investment promotion events in India and abroad in association with industry associations.

**New projects/units for food processing**

1953. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many new projects/units have been established during the last five years;

(b) if so the details thereof year-wise and State-wise with the sanction and help of Government;